

PROGRESS FOR  
MISSOURI

State of the State

Address by

Governor John Ashcroft

January 12, 1988

Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President Pro Tem, distinguished state officials, members of the judiciary, members of the 84th General Assembly, reverend clergy, fellow Missourians:

I'm grateful for this opportunity to confer with you and to begin our planning for the last fiscal year of the 1980s. Together, we are laying the groundwork for a new decade and the century soon to come.

Our shared goal unites us: progress for Missouri. We want the next year to be better than the last and the next century -- only 12 years away -- to be brighter than the present.

Achieving that goal continues to require the worthiest efforts of each of us. Although our philosophical differences must continue to invigorate our democratic process, we must never allow our human shortcomings and missteps to frustrate our purpose: working for the people. Our

accomplishments of recent years have flourished in a healthy environment of partnership.

We must protect, not poison, our environment of partnership and keep progress, not politics, our ultimate goal. Let's plan our efforts on a calendar that runs through April instead of November. Let's keep our eyes on the next generation, not on the next election. Our state's immediate, pressing needs call us to cooperate.

In times like these, we should keep in mind the Scripture from Proverbs inscribed in the Capitol rotunda: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." These words should serve as constant reminders that we must keep our eyes fixed firmly on the horizon.

The process of government is known as "the art of the possible." Today, we simply can't afford to limit our progress to conventional possibilities. To achieve the future Missourians deserve, we must redefine the possible. We must disprove the conventional wisdom about what we can accomplish.

Together, we've done much over the past three years to redefine what is possible in Missouri. I'm committed to

making our fourth year of mutual effort equally productive. We've created a tradition of which we can be proud and on which we must continue to build.

Together, we are building opportunity and creating jobs for Missourians. In 1985, Missouri placed 22nd in a ranking of state business climates. A year later, we stood at 16th. Today, we rank sixth. That's progress.

And today, over 100,000 more Missourians are working than were working just three years ago. In fact, during the last year, more Missourians have been at work than ever before, which means that more of our people have the opportunity to achieve the maximum of their God-given potential.

True progress for our state is the combination of many individual instances of progress. Yet our progress won't be complete until every Missourian has a secure and well-paying job. Working for progress like this will carry Missouri solidly into the 21st century.

The people of Missouri cast aside conventional wisdom and redefine the possible in their own lives every day.

For example, I recently visited a new poultry processing facility in Buffalo made possible by state assistance. Up to 400 new jobs will be available because this facility, and its employees, are redefining the possibilities for international trade.

Not only will Petit Jean be the largest employer in Dallas County, all the production of that facility -- almost 20 million pounds of chicken annually -- will be sent to Japan. This is more than "Buy Missouri" and "Buy America" -- this is marketing Missouri to the world.

As we've made progress in job development, we've also been moving up in the ranks in support for education, repeatedly placing among the top 15 states in percentage increases of support for our schools.

But -- and much more importantly -- we're not just providing more money for education, we're also getting more education for the money.

We pay our teachers more for teaching well. Across the state, our "Career Ladder" program is encouraging teachers to build their professional skills and become the best teachers they can be.

Take Susan Nichols, just up the road in Hallsville, Missouri. Susan works hard as an elementary teacher and a librarian. She's not content to do only what's required. She knows she has greater possibilities, and she wants her students to know that they do, too. Thanks to the Career Ladder, she's receiving an extra \$3,000 a year for her fine work, and she tells me she's eagerly preparing to take the next step up the Career Ladder.

Our other "Excellence in Education" reforms are also helping Missourians receive higher-quality schooling. We test students thoroughly to ensure that they've done more than simply attend class -- to ensure that they've learned lessons. Through our nationally acclaimed "Parents as Teachers" program, we've helped parents become their children's first and best teachers and full partners in education. Missouri is showing the nation -- we're leading the way.

For example, Missouri is now the only state in America able to look forward to the combined effects of three major reforms: students attend longer college semesters, their actual learning is systematically assessed, and information on their college success is

provided to high schools so those high schools can improve the ways they prepare other students for college. Missouri is showing the nation -- we're leading the way.

Our work to build excellence in higher education is helping us keep our brightest young minds in Missouri.

I know of a freshman, Robert Coker, at the University of Missouri-Rolla who received a "Bright Flight" scholarship this year. This young man from Kansas City scored in the top 1 percent on his A.C.T. and chose to go to college here in Missouri. He's a good example of the type of student we're now able to keep here at home.

It should come as no surprise that our people and the enterprises they pursue provide our best examples of redefining the possible. After all, government isn't the primary engine of our progress. The private sector -- and the people themselves -- are.

In the last three years, we've together taken other important steps that have helped us redefine the possible in Missouri -- medical malpractice reform, tort and liability insurance

reform, telecommunications law reform. How many other states have tried and failed! Missouri is showing the nation -- we're leading the way.

We must continue blazing trails toward progress for Missouri. We must pursue progress through education, welfare reform, job creation, programs for senior Missourians and the poor, and by protecting a safe environment.

### **PROGRESS THROUGH EDUCATION**

Education is the foundation on which we build future progress for Missouri. Over the last three years, you and I have focused much of our efforts on reforming education. We are one of six states the United States Department of Education is watching to break new ground. Again, Missouri is showing the nation -- we're leading the way.

But we must build on our progress if our state and our people are to stay ahead in a competitive world economy.

Our schools should begin by lengthening the academic calendar. Our minimum 174-day year is next to the shortest in the nation. We must give students greater opportunity to learn and achieve, and we

must signal to them that learning is important, that it's worthy of serious attention and hard work.

The State Board of Education has responded to my call for action to address this problem in Missouri's public schools. I support the board's proposal to provide financial incentives through the foundation formula to districts that provide more time in class for students to learn.

To support this and other vital improvements in the quality of Missouri education, I'm recommending a \$50 million increase in School Foundation funding plus an additional \$23 million to continue the one-time funding provided last year.

For our schools to make their best contributions to student achievement, they must also have adequate facilities for learning. Given the different funding sources, it's much easier for Missourians to raise support for our dog pounds than for new public schools. It shouldn't be so much easier to add kennels than classrooms.

Let's give the people the chance to lower the two-thirds requirement for school bond issues. Let's work together to identify a reasonable

percentage -- one that the people will support -- to give our educational system a chance to improve its facilities.

In 1985, we turned a new page in the history of Missouri education. We redefined the possible when we adopted the "Excellence in Education Act." We all worked on this landmark legislation; and together, we set a new course for the future of Missouri schools.

To continue the reforms we began in 1985 -- paying teachers more for teaching well, assessing student learning, and tightening teacher certification requirements, among others -- I'm recommending a transfer from general revenue to the Excellence Fund of \$31 million. This recommendation, coupled with our Foundation funding increase, represents a 48 percent boost in state support for elementary and secondary education since Fiscal Year 1985.

Redefining the possible for Missouri education should also include a commitment to make Missouri schools crime free. Just as a solid business climate is essential for creating jobs, a proper environment for learning is essential to educational excellence. Without that

environment, teachers can't teach and students can't learn. It's that simple.

Our "Crime-Free Schools" plan attacks the forces that defeat safe, orderly, effective education.

"Crime-Free Schools" would:

- \* get tough on drug sales on or near school grounds,

- \* make it a felony to assault teachers or carry weapons on school grounds, and

- \* strengthen our ability to gain restitution from those who damage, deface, and vandalize school property.

Of course, our schools' ability to prepare children for the future is severely limited without involvement and support from parents and community members. When parents take an active interest in their children's education, they show children that school work deserves their best work.

Missouri's award-winning "Parents as Teachers" program may be our best example of parents' positive impact on their children's education. I'm proposing new funding to serve a total of 102,000 families in this program we implemented three years ago.

As an incentive for high school students to redefine what they can become -- to encourage them to take charge of their futures by excelling in their studies -- we should reward students who maintain top grades by authorizing them to earn daytime driving privileges when they turn 15 and one-half. Insurance companies agree with our assessment that students who perform well in school tend to be safer drivers.

I encourage you to signal to Missouri's teenagers that we want them to learn all they can and that we're willing to reward them for it in a way that they find meaningful.

But Missouri's high-achievers aren't the only students we need to motivate. Too many of our students drop out. We can't afford to waste this vast potential. I'm proposing that we set aside \$1.5 million of our "Excellence Grants" for programs that hold students in class and cause them to finish high school.

College should be the destination of most of our students. To help provide more Missourians with high-quality college education, I'm recommending a commitment from general revenue to our two- and four-year colleges of more

than \$510 million, a \$27 million increase over last year's appropriation. This would bring our four-year increase to 45 percent.

Despite our increases in support for higher education, Missouri families still face substantial costs as they prepare to help their children attend college. We need to encourage families to begin planning for their children's higher education early in their children's lives.

Your Joint Committee on Access to Higher Education has studied several interesting proposals to give parents incentives to save for their children's college years. College savings bonds could help improve our campuses while helping families save. I look forward to working with you to identify the best strategies for expanding access to higher education through tax-free savings plans.

All our efforts to improve learning will help us redefine our children's possibilities. But the most important task set before any generation is to pass on a set of values to the next.

Some will argue that because we treasure individual liberty, we can't agree on our fundamental values. I believe

we can. And I believe we must pass on these values to our children.

Our young people need to know that it's better to earn something than to steal it; that it's better to build something than to destroy it; that it's better to make decisions based on facts than on prejudice; that it's better to tell the truth than to lie; that independence is better than dependence; that love is better than hate; that hope is better than despair.

These values are American values. They are values all of us share. They unite us; they don't divide us. We can -- we must -- pass them on to our children in our schools.

In St. Louis, with the help of the McDonnell-Douglas Corporation, the city and county public schools have begun to implement a program emphasizing the need for personal responsibility -- for honesty, integrity, honor, hard work, and many other fundamental values that are so much a part of our American heritage.

This program is up, running, and working. The right values will discourage dropouts, teen pregnancy, and school crime; and they will encourage better study habits

and better grades. We should encourage programs like these because we owe our young people an inheritance of the values that have helped this nation grow strong.

So progress for Missouri through education should include:

- \* more time in the classroom,

- \* a chance for the people to lower the 2/3 majority barrier,

- \* crime-free schools,

- \* early driving privileges for good grades,

- \* dropout prevention,

- \* a tax-free college savings plan, and

- \* instilling American values in our students.

I hope you'll join with me along this path toward progress.

### **PROGRESS THROUGH WELFARE REFORM**

Education is the path to new possibilities and opportunities for more than Missouri's young people. Perhaps the toughest opponent of human hope and purpose with which we must struggle is one

of our own making. Our current welfare system is the enemy of many Missourians in need.

We must continue to strengthen our adult basic education and literacy programs. These programs are especially vital to reforming a welfare system that fosters decay and dependency rather than aspiration and achievement. Our program to prepare for the next century requires a wholesale redefinition of the possible for thousands of Missourians now mired in dependency. We need a "learn to earn" system that leads from welfare to work.

I received a letter this summer from a woman in south-central Missouri. She had dropped out of high school when she was 17 and in a year had become a single parent receiving welfare assistance.

At that point, I'm sure her possibilities seemed bleak. Without a high school diploma, she was trying to raise a young child alone. She and her child appeared doomed to lives of dependency and dead ends.

But she refused to be bound by conventional expectations -- she knew she possessed the opportunity to redefine the possible. And



she did it the old-fashioned way -- she earned her high school equivalency, with state help. Through grants and scholarships, she went on to college and became a teacher. She's now been teaching four years.

The concept of Learnfare is the face of the future in Missouri and across the nation. Mandatory education and training are built into every credible proposal in the United States Congress. The U.S. House of Representatives already has passed a bill, and it's possible that we could see final passage of a new federal welfare plan before you adjourn this spring.

By improving our coordination of education, training, child care, and job placement services, we're already demonstrating the potential of this new approach on a limited basis in St. Louis and Kansas City. We've asked for federal administrative waivers to authorize the expansion of these efforts as you provide the means to do so.

We've also worked together to take advantage of an opportunity to allow low-income women to leave the welfare rolls and go to work without forfeiting certain health care benefits for themselves or their children.

While awaiting congressional action, Missouri should move ahead with welfare reform legislation. I'm grateful for the hard work of many, including sponsor Al Nilges, who helped last year. Federal changes, whenever they come, are sure to lower the state costs of this new system below what we expected last year. I hope you will support his bill as an avenue of further progress in reforming our system, although we must not conflict with prospective federal law or constrain any flexibility that it may provide.

All of us recognize that child care services are another component of our efforts to encourage economic freedom rather than welfare dependence. Since Fiscal Year 1985, we've increased our general revenue commitment to these services by more than 50 times, from \$56,000 to \$3.1 million.

To balance the budget last year, I had to veto spending in a number of areas; and this was one of those areas. But we've been able to allocate sufficient federal funds to more than replace the vetoed amount and to provide a 25 percent increase in the average number of children served per month this year.

For the coming year, I'm recommending another substantial increase of \$1.6 million in order to provide day care for an additional 1,000 children. This will provide significant continued progress even in a year of fiscal constraint. This will free more parents to redefine their possibilities and get jobs.

### PROGRESS THROUGH JOB CREATION

The Missouri Opportunity 2000 Commission has emphasized economic development as a path to progress. When we attract and retain Missouri jobs, we build new opportunities for our workers to break free from conventional restraints and define new possibilities for themselves.

There are a number of good proposals for improving our competitive position and for bringing more jobs to our state -- I propose that we pull them all together in a "Progress for Missouri" initiative.

As part of this package, we should expand our Linked-Deposit program, which currently serves farmers and small businesses, to include a broader "Job Creation Loan Fund." I'm proposing a \$100 million Linked-Deposit expansion tied directly to job creation to allow more businesses to receive loans.

Another part of the "Progress for Missouri" initiative is the establishment of an "Export Development Office" and the creation of an Export Financing Fund. Increasing foreign exports of Missouri goods and agricultural products will create more jobs for Missourians. With the dollar's exchange rate favorable to exports, we have an unusual opportunity to teach the world to "Buy Missouri." Let's not lose this chance.

A "Progress for Missouri" program also would enhance our commitment to Missouri's home-grown businesses. Our existing firms haven't benefited from tax credits to the same extent as businesses that are new to our state. "Progress for Missouri" would address this inequity and underscore Missouri's commitment to its existing business community.

When we work with Missouri businesses, they not only survive, they thrive.

I remember visiting Thorngate, Inc., in Cape Girardeau in September. The company, a clothing manufacturer, had recently installed new computerized fabric-cutting equipment to improve its ability to

compete. But the company found that its drive for competitiveness had caused many of its employees' skills to become obsolete.

The workers might have lost their jobs to progress. But Thorngate has determined to help its workers redefine their possibilities and to join in the company's journey into the future. With support from the state, Thorngate trained its workers so they could adapt to the new technology and keep their jobs.

Faced with the competitive challenge, Thorngate said "no" to the conventional wisdom. Not only did the company redefine its possibilities in the market by adapting to the latest technology, its workers redefined the possible in their lives by learning new skills.

Although efforts to attract automakers create a big splash, our everyday work with our home-grown businesses is the bread and butter of redefining Missouri's possibilities. After all, when it's your job that's at stake, it doesn't matter whether it's one of five or 5,000.

"Progress for Missouri" also includes my support for

the "Missouri Main Street" program. Enactment of this program would help us redefine possibilities for our small towns by restoring their downtown areas and promoting their small businesses.

Rural Missouri is a vital component of our economic engine, and we must help our rural communities redefine the possible for themselves.

To help create new job opportunities in out-state Missouri, we should develop, as Representative Driskill has proposed, a "Rural Communities Economic Assistance Program" to provide competitive grants for small communities seeking new jobs. These grants would spur the innovation and creativity small towns need to attract jobs.

We can also build progress in rural Missouri by expanding our "AgriMissouri" marketing program. I'm recommending that we devote additional funds to this program that builds demand for Missouri's high-quality agricultural products. One of the best agricultural markets is right here at home, and we must continue to cultivate it.

So redefining the possible for job creation includes:

\* financing tools for new jobs,

\* developing our exports,

\* the "Missouri Main Street" program,

\* economic development grants for rural communities, and

\* expanding "AgriMissouri."

These are the highlights of "Progress for Missouri."

#### **PROGRESS FOR SENIOR MISSOURIANS AND THE POOR**

As we work to bring about progress for Missouri, we must remember that new possibilities can't be limited to the comfortable and the young. All Missourians must share in our progress; all must have the opportunity to redefine the possible in their lives.

Too many of our citizens on limited incomes need access to affordable housing. I'm proposing that we expand the availability of high-quality, affordable housing by creating a new "Housing Trust Fund." Surplus funds from the Housing Development Commission would be used to provide low-interest loans for lower-income Missourians.

Older Missourians particularly need these and other expanded possibilities. I'm recommending that we provide several new avenues of opportunity for our seniors and upgrade others we've already built.

To older Missourians who can no longer care for themselves we owe a special measure of attention. Both those who depend on their own resources and those who receive state financial assistance rely on us to ensure that they receive quality care.

To bolster our "Fair but Firm" policy for nursing homes, I'm recommending, and Senator Bob Johnson will sponsor, a measure to prohibit nursing home operators from hiring anyone from the Division of Aging's "known abuser" list. We should also cut in half the time nursing home administrators are given to submit plans of correction for life-threatening violations of state care standards.

As another strategy for improving the quality of care for our older Missourians, I'm asking for increased funding to recruit and train almost 400 more volunteers as nursing home ombudsmen. I'm also recommending additional support to improve our ability

to inspect nursing homes and investigate reports of abuse and neglect.

Because our ultimate goal is to involve all Missourians in our state's progress, we must open new possibilities for low-income Missourians by expanding their access to health care.

We can help more of our hospitals care for indigent Missourians by increasing payments to hospitals serving a disproportionate share of low-income patients. The plan I've submitted would expand from six to 25 the number of these hospitals qualifying for increased reimbursement rates.

A commitment of \$1.6 million in additional state funds, combined and redirected with current funding, would generate an additional \$6 million in federal matching funds to support this program. I've explored this approach with hospitals in previous years. But this year, for the first time, hospitals across our state have agreed to leverage our contribution so that next year's assistance to these hospitals will be five times as great as this year's.

Leveraging has taken place in other departments as well. In the Department of Mental Health over the next three years, we'll draw over

\$18 million more in federal support for people in need by redirecting existing resources.

## PROTECTING A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR PROGRESS

An environment for progress must also be a safe environment. To develop progress, state government has a special responsibility to deal with threats that restrict our possibilities.

The AIDS epidemic is one such threat. AIDS is attacking every segment of our population -- eight children already have been its innocent victims in our state. AIDS is so potentially devastating that we must take immediate action to implement a plan that will respond to the needs not only of AIDS victims but also those of care givers and the general public.

Until a cure is found, preventive education is our most effective front-line defense against the spread of this frightening disease. I'm requesting an additional \$1.8 million in general revenue to fund increased public education, testing, and counseling. And I'll support tough legislative measures designed to control the spread of this disease.

Another public health hazard we must confront openly and forthrightly is infectious hospital and medical waste.

Last year's efforts by the General Assembly were a step in the right direction. We must redouble our efforts this year to create a system for the effective disposal of infectious waste and to prevent Missouri from becoming an infectious waste dumping ground.

I support legislation to deny an infectious waste license to any person who has engaged in unsafe hazardous waste management practices. We don't want these bad actors in our state.

To expand our environment of safety, we've enacted new laws in recent years to protect Missourians from crime and criminals, and we've approved over 5,000 new prison spaces to handle the growing numbers of prisoners.

The cost of these new prisons and the cost of locking up these criminals requires a major commitment of state funds. Yet some in our prisons may have substantial assets and resources that could be made available to help pay for their incarceration.

It's time to stop giving free room and board in our state prison system to those who can pay. It's time to force them to pay for their imprisonment. No more free rides -- no more free meals provided by the taxpayers of Missouri.

I support legislation to force prisoners to disclose information about their assets and to authorize the Attorney General, when appropriate, to seize these assets and apply them to our costs of protecting the public.

As we make hardened criminals pay for their jailing, we also should look more carefully at our treatment of young offenders. I propose that we establish a boot camp at the Boonville Correctional Center -- a boot camp to produce specific character improvements through physical, mental, social, and moral training.

So to redefine a safe environment for progress, we should:

- \* attack the AIDS problem,

- \* protect the public from improper infectious waste disposal,

- \* require criminals with money to pay their room and board, and

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\* provide a boot camp for young offenders.

**PROGRESS THROUGH PRIORITIES:  
THE NECESSITY FOR FISCAL  
RESPONSIBILITY**

The five-year budget plan presented today shows that by controlling our spending, we have adequate funds to operate state government within the resources provided by our current tax base. This budget is tighter than some -- but manageable. It's balanced, based on realistic estimates and conservative spending.

With special voter-approved support, Missouri has vastly improved its state park system and moved from among the worst to among the best of states in attacking the soil erosion problem. We should give the voters an opportunity to continue this initiative.

Many have suggested that the program be expanded in order to extend support to local parks and institutions. There is value in this concept, but such support should only come from a similarly earmarked revenue source; otherwise it threatens to become the ultimate bottomless pork barrel.

I don't believe, however, that this is an appropriate time or purpose for raising

the state sales tax -- a tax that is felt most harshly by those least able to pay. I therefore recommend that if the General Assembly proposes to increase the parks sales tax, an equal and concurrent reduction in the general sales tax should be a part of the proposal.

I believe any proposal for a 1/20 of a cent increase should be matched by a 1/20 of a cent, or \$20 million, reduction in the sales tax at the same time, beginning in Fiscal Year 1990.

It's not unreasonable to propose limited support for local parks and facilities from a statewide tax base, but it is unreasonable to treat state taxpayers as an unlimited "deep pocket." A "tax and tax, spend and spend" philosophy is not a guidepost to progress. It's a discredited strategy of the past.

Last year, a number of proposals were made to limit the tax burden on Missouri citizens, but we couldn't develop agreement. The last session's decisions are history. I'll be pleased to listen to any new legislative proposals, but there's no point in simply replaying a discussion that went nowhere.

The hand of the federal courts in the taxpayers' pockets will bleed more than \$210 million from the state budget in the next fiscal year, an increase that eats up an additional \$50 million of state resources. As long as the Kansas City and St. Louis federal courts are siphoning off three times the combined general revenue budgets of our departments of Economic Development, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, we'll have to tighten our belts an extra notch.

My budget recommends funding for the Attorney General that will allow him to pursue every legal avenue to limit the impact of these orders on our state.

Another action we should take to manage our resources wisely is to put a little away for unexpected emergencies. It's far past time to start saving in our "Rainy Day Fund."

I hope you'll consider this recommendation more favorably this year. Certainly we're in stricter constraints now, but maybe we'll be more sensitive to the need in these circumstances. There is never a bad time to start a good habit. Let's put at least \$2 million aside and begin making regular deposits in this savings fund. It will

provide a more sound and stable governmental foundation for progress.

Unlike our prodigal colleagues in Washington, we don't print the money -- and we can't spend it like we do.

So to maintain a balanced, stable budget and a strong fiscal foundation, we should:

- \* balance the budget based on realistic revenue estimates and conservative spending,

- \* reduce our state sales tax if an increase is needed for parks and soil conservation,

- \* fight federally ordered busing costs, and

- \* provide for our "Rainy Day Fund."

### MISSOURI'S LOTTERY

There's one final, very important topic that I want to discuss with you.

America's foremost lottery auditing firm has confirmed what many of us have been skeptical of accepting: The basic constitutional structure of the lottery dooms it to practical expiration.



As you know, I don't personally favor legalized gambling. But as elected officials of this state, we have the responsibility to carry out the people's will. It's clear to me now that this is not a gaming issue or a financial issue. The lottery issue is a fairness issue.

Our responsibility to respect the will of the people overrides other considerations now, just as it did when you passed and I signed the lottery law in 1985.

The voters were promised a choice in 1984, and they clearly demanded a lottery. But it's now apparent that the choice they had was between no lottery and a lottery so structurally flawed that it was doomed to fail. It's time to deliver to them the real choice to which they were entitled, a choice that includes an opportunity for a sound, viable lottery.

It's also time to deliver on the people's expectation that the state's proceeds from the lottery be traced to education.

The constitutional amendment itself didn't spell out a dedication to education any more than it spelled out the framework for a workable lottery, but public will and expectations were clear. We

didn't hear lottery promoters dampening the impression that education would get the benefit if the amendment passed.

As far as I'm concerned, we've got no business now saying, "Sorry, Charley, you didn't read the fine print. It doesn't come with a warranty, batteries, or money traced to education."

As I said before, this is not so much a financial issue as an issue of fairness and accountability. Lotteries are not a panacea for the budgets of state governments. One year's drop of a couple of percentage points of general revenue growth, or one morning's work by a federal judge, can make more financial difference than all the lottery funds put together.

But the lottery revenue is here, and people deserve to know where it's going. We have an obligation to account for its use, and we ought to do so in accordance with the people's expectations.

We also ought to do so as a statement and reflection of the priorities of state government. I doubt that any more than a handful, if any, of the elected officials in this chamber today would disagree with the plain and undeniable fact that education

has received the primary benefit not only of the lottery but of other state revenue in recent years.

For three years, I have asked for a "come clean" strategy of full disclosure. Let's tell the people exactly where every penny goes. Let's enable schools, colleges, and other educational institutions to show the people exactly what those institutions derive from the lottery. It will then be clear that the lottery can account for only about 2 percent of our public education costs, even less if capital costs are considered. It can be a valuable 2 percent but clearly no substitute for other crucial support.

The fact is that our schools can build a stronger case for vital, new local support once this issue is forthrightly and openly resolved.

Let's let the people make a real choice about a lottery that works, and let's come clean with the full disclosure possible only when we provide complete traceability of lottery proceeds to education.

#### PROGRESS FOR MISSOURI

The program I've presented to you today will help us redefine the possible in Missouri. It's a plan for

setting the state on a path of progress toward the 21st century. As in the past, it may be necessary for me to submit further recommendations before this session ends.

But it's now our duty to seize this opportunity and create a bright future for our state. It's up to us to choose the legacy we will leave.

If we fail to keep our eyes on the horizon, ours could be empty actions taken by people looking only to the past and present, assuming that later years will take care of themselves. Or, ours can be works of vision done by men and women with eyes fixed on the future, together redefining what is possible in Missouri.

As de Tocqueville wrote in Democracy in America, "Democratic nations care but little for what has been, but they are haunted by visions of what will be; in this direction, their unbounded imagination grows . . . beyond all measure. . . . Democracy, which shuts the past against the poet, opens the future before him." Now the future lies open before us.

Our first step in building progress for Missouri is to redefine the possible among ourselves. We must show

by our deeds in the coming months that we can create our future by refusing to accept supposed inevitabilities of the past.

To redefine the possible, both for ourselves and our fellow citizens, we need only call on the spirit of that elementary school teacher in south-central Missouri who denied her past's prescription and created a life of progress for herself, for her child, and for many young Missourians.

We need only look to the spirit of that Missourian, and thousands like her, to see that we can't accept anything less for ourselves.

We owe the people of this state the same dedication to redefining the possible that they themselves show. And we owe to the Missourians of the future a commitment to the future, a devotion to the progress we wish our children to inherit.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Hancock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.